



The President's Daily Brief

27 June 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

A roundup of events in Cambodia begins on *Page 1*.

A Soviet party plenum [] probably will review the agenda for the first session of the legislature on 14 July. (*Page 4*)

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An increase in enemy boat construction in south Laos suggests that the Communists plan to take advantage of the Se Kong River system to transport supplies. (*Page 5*)

In West Germany, the Free Democratic Party convention reaffirmed its support for the Brandt coalition. (*Page 6*)

Libya is threatening to nationalize the holdings of Occidental Petroleum Company. (*Page 7*)

Student militants and Buddhists may launch new demonstrations this weekend in Saigon. (*Page 8*)

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CAMBODIA

The Communists are continuing to attack in areas north and west of Phnom Penh. Enemy forces in Kompong Chhnang Province resumed ground and mortar attacks on the town of Lovek and the nearby munitions depot yesterday.

There is evidence that more Communist forces are moving into the province. The enemy destroyed another train station and a bridge on the railway to Bangkok in the southern part of the province on 24 June. Government forces are now running a clearing operation in that area.

The Communists yesterday also made a five-hour night-time mortar and ground attack on a provincial office and a military barracks in the town of Kompong Speu, but government casualties apparently were light. The headquarters of the North Vietnamese 101D Regiment was located in a mountainous area some 25 miles west of Kompong Speu on 25 June, and the headquarters of its subordinate 7th Battalion was about 12 miles southwest of the city.

The Communists may be planning new attacks closer to Phnom Penh. A Cambodian Army message claimed on 25 June that a "large" enemy force was moving into positions just northeast of the capital. Sizable enemy forces are also reported in other areas around Phnom Penh, including the force which apparently still holds the river village of Prek Tameak.

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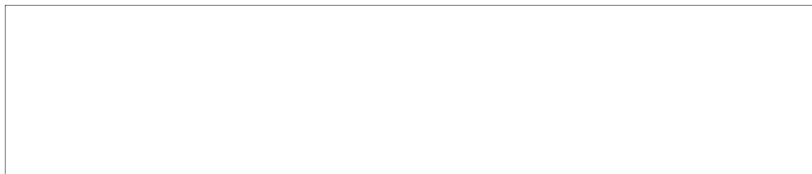
More reinforcements have arrived in Kompong Thom, and others are moving in by road. Their progress has been slowed by frequent enemy harassment. The city itself remains firmly in government hands.

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In northern Svay Rieng Province, an army message indicates that the Communists have been stockpiling substantial quantities of munitions, rice, and other supplies near the South Vietnamese border. A Cambodian military spokesman announced early today that the government's garrisons in Labansiek and Bokheo in Ratanakiri Province have been safely evacuated.

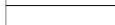
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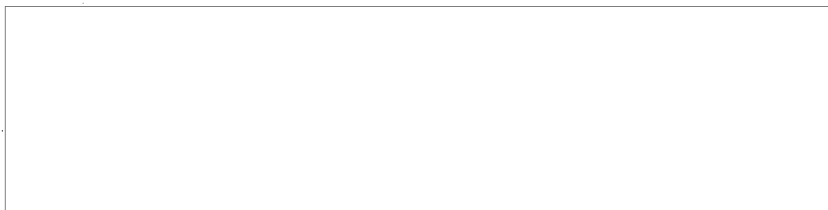
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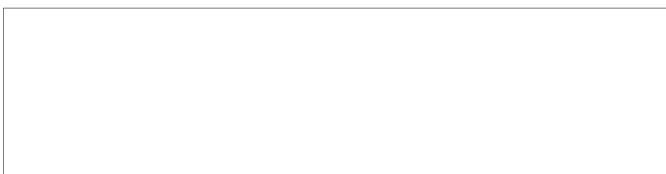


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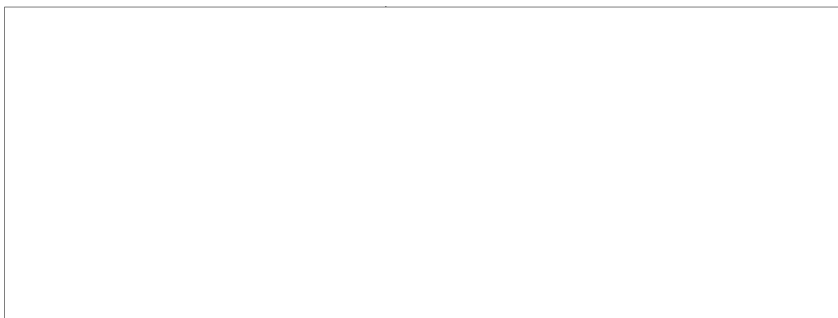


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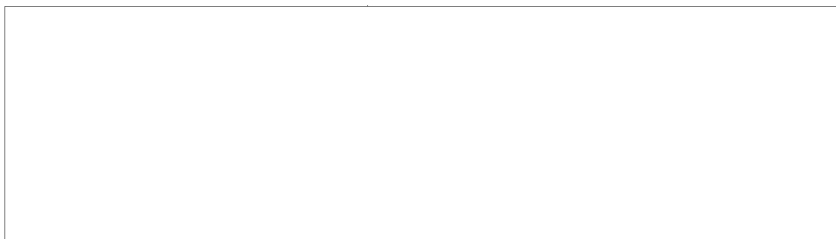


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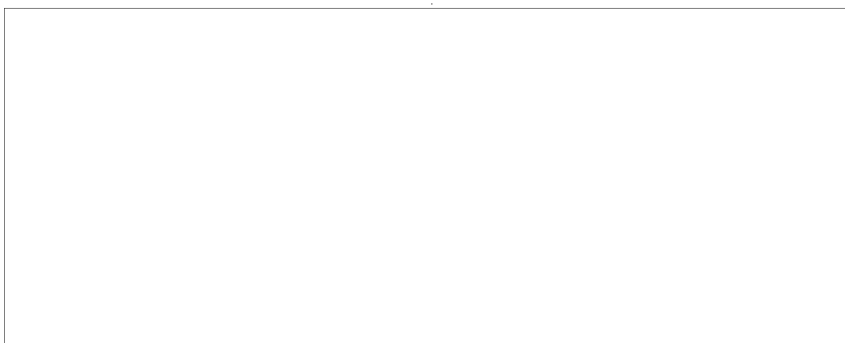
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USSR

[redacted]
[redacted] the Soviet press announced that the first session of the newly elected Supreme Soviet would be held on 14 July.

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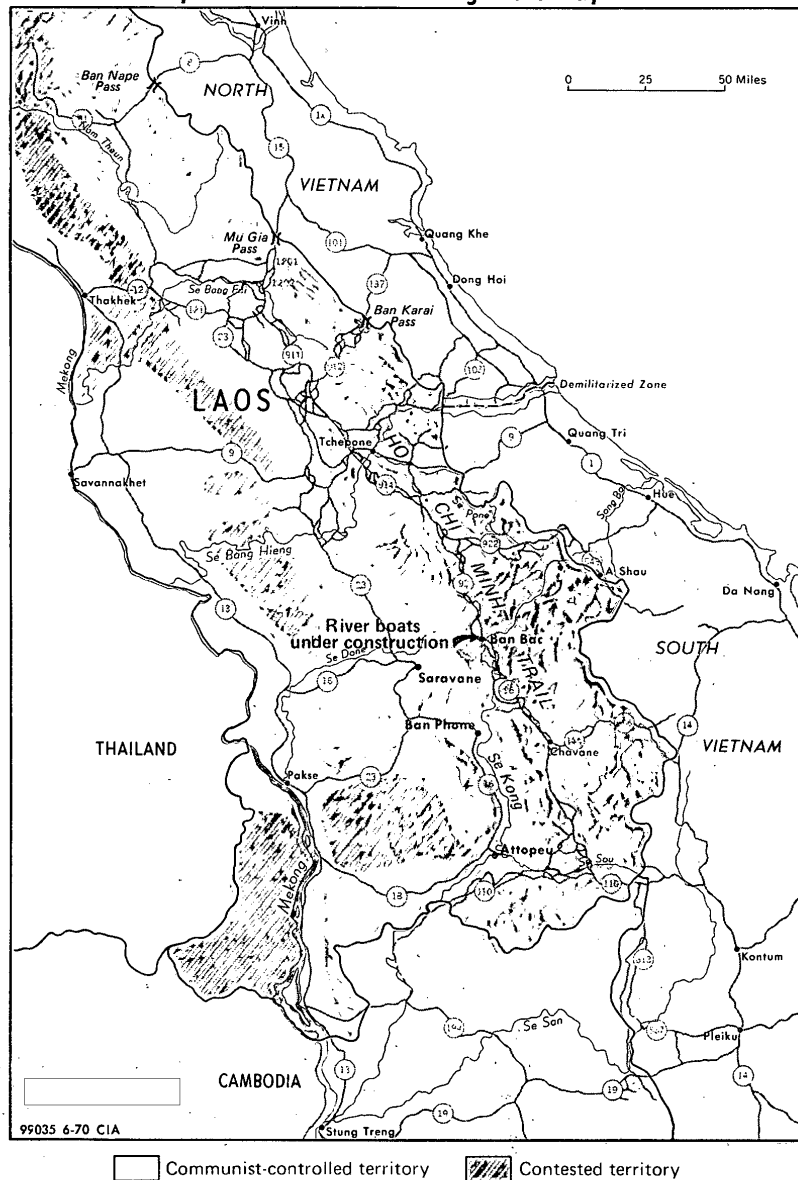
The first session of the Supreme Soviet, as the nominally highest governing body, formally approves the composition of the council of ministers. A party plenum always precedes this session to approve its agenda and any personnel changes which are contemplated.

The plenum should also announce the date of the already overdue 24th Party Congress. The Soviet leadership is publicly committed to holding the congress this year; the date is usually announced six months in advance to allow adequate time for preparations. Difficulties in working out preliminary guidelines for the next five-year plan (1971-1975) have accounted in part for the delay in scheduling the congress. The plenum may also discuss agricultural matters or science and technology, subjects which have been cited [redacted] as topics for discussion at the next central committee plenum.

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Communists May Increase Use of Se Kong Waterway



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LAOS



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[redacted] the Communists now have [redacted]
boats operating between Ban Phone and Attoupeu and [redacted]
[redacted] river craft shuttling supplies to the Cam-
bodian border along the lower portion of the Se Kong.
Intercepted messages indicate the Communist logistic
units in the panhandle were constructing river craft
as early as mid-May.

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*The Communists have been free floating
supplies down the Se Kong for some time.
Now that they have improved their control
of south Laos by seizing Attoupeu and Sara-
vane, they apparently are planning more
ambitious logistic operations to include
the Se Kong and possibly the Mekong River
to transport supplies south.*

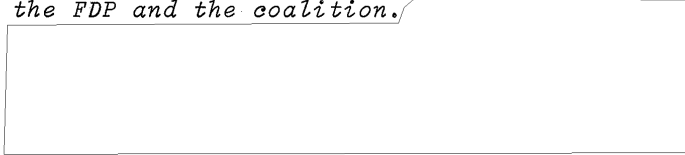
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WEST GERMANY

The Free Democratic Party (FDP) and its chairman, Foreign Minister Scheel, received a temporary reprieve at the FDP convention early this week. Prior to the convention, former FDP chairman Erich Mende tried to organize a return to conservative policies. The moderates and the left wing reacted by endorsing the coalition and Ostpolitik, while censuring Mende by a vote of 233 to 102.

State elections in Bavaria and Hesse next November will provide another hurdle for the FDP and the coalition.



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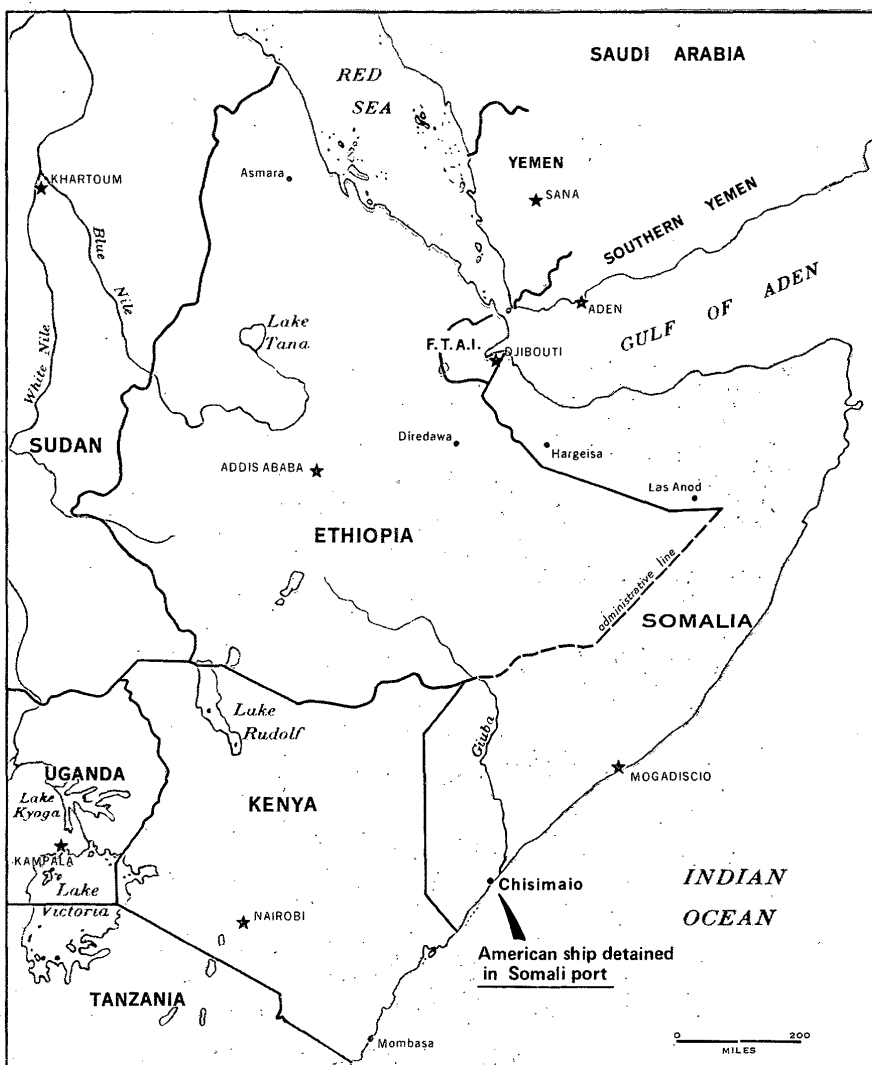
LIBYA

Yesterday an Algerian official told the US chargé that President Boumediene has been informed that Libya has decided to nationalize Occidental holdings in Libya in the next few days.

It has been difficult to determine who has been calling the shots in Libya's price negotiations with American firms. While President Qaddafi and the chairman of the negotiating team, Maghribi, were on a Middle Eastern tour, Deputy Premier Jallud made some conciliatory offers that were considerably below previous government demands. At the same time, however, he stressed that a prompt settlement was desired and that the companies should not force the government to "do something it does not want to do." The companies made counteroffers and, as of last weekend, had hopes of a mutually satisfactory settlement.

Qaddafi and Maghribi--a bitter adversary of Occidental--are now back. They will not be as accommodating as Jallud, and it is possible that the government has chosen to sacrifice Occidental in order to bring the other companies to heel. On the other hand, the government may be using nationalization threats as a device to hasten a settlement.

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NOTES

South Vietnam: Two funeral processions this weekend may provide the occasion for new demonstrations in Saigon. One is for a Buddhist monk alleged to have died of injuries during a factional clash early last month, the other for a disabled veteran said to have died after being shot by a policeman recently. Student militants are trying to persuade various groups to join the Buddhist procession, and some are reported planning to fire bomb American installations. The militants have not had much success assembling demonstrators lately, and the police will no doubt act forcefully to keep large crowds from coming together.

Somalia: The government has not officially commented on its detention yesterday of a US geological survey ship, but in view of the current strains in US-Somali relations Mogadiscio may exploit the incident for propaganda purposes. The ship was en route to Durban, South Africa to conduct seismic recordings for oil deposits when a patrol boat forced it into the port of Chisimaio. Intercepted messages indicate that police and security personnel have been instructed by the Mogadiscio naval command to make a detailed report on the ship's violation of territorial waters and its failure to observe the international maritime code. The crew has been interrogated and is being kept in a hotel under surveillance.

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